

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 24, 2012
CONTACT: Marcheta Strunk, Public Information Office, 623-930-2822

GLENDALE PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF, PROJECT EARN TOP HONORS AT STATE EVENT

Glendale, Ariz. — Glendale Recreation Coordinator Michelle Yates and the Bonsall Park Jet Rededication Project received awards at the annual Arizona Parks and Recreation Association (APRA) awards banquet held recently.

Young Professional of the Year

Michelle Yates, a recreation coordinator for the city of Glendale, received the special honor of Young Professional of the Year. This recognition is the highest accolade a young recreation professional can receive from APRA. “Her leadership and dedication is exemplary and her commitment to public service made her an ideal candidate for this award,” stated her supervisor, Michael Gregory.

Yates has been involved in the Parks and Recreation profession since before she was a teenager at a Phoenix park by volunteering. She joined the profession officially at age 15 as a recreation aide in Phoenix, followed by a promotion to recreation leader, due to her work ethic, which included supervising three recreation centers.

In 2003, she joined the city of Glendale’s Parks and Recreation Department and has worked in the areas of youth and teen, special events and parks. These areas have expanded her experience and knowledge of the field where she has performed fundraising, community special events, marketing, community and business outreach and various programming. In her various positions she has successfully developed business plans, analyzed programs and events, created a fee structure for facilities and developed a sustainability study.

While she has continued to develop her professional career, she has also contributed to the profession through APRA. She has served as chair of the APRA youth and teen branch and continues to participate in APRA educational sessions, acts as a session facilitator, has taught education sessions and has served on a variety of the annual conference committees since 2003.

- MORE -

GLENDALE RECREATION AWARDS
Add 1-1-1-1

“Michelle has shown distinct leadership in promotion, organization, and development of a “pioneer-type” activity in parks and recreation and ground-breaking leadership during her entire career,” stated Gregory, recreation manager.

Bonsall Jet Rededication Project

The Bonsall Jet Rededication Project received the designation of Outstanding Program Award – Educational Program. The project was a collaboration of several organizations including the city of Glendale, Luke Air Force Base, local veteran organizations and volunteers to refurbish the static F-100 Super Saber aircraft displayed at Bonsall Park. The project culminated with a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the F-100’s deployment to Vietnam.

The jet project developed a fundraising campaign to restore the aircraft and establish a fund for ongoing maintenance. Through the project, the jet’s history was researched, ultimately providing connections to Glendale and Luke Air Force Base and revealed the plane’s original paint scheme and insignias. One of the highlights was to find out one of the pilots who had flown the plane lived in the area, and he attended the rededication ceremony. A new interpretive sign was installed at the site, which shares the history and was revealed at the rededication ceremony in December 2011. Several elements generated publicity, which educated thousands of residents in the surrounding community as well as retired and current military personnel, both locally and nationally, about the plane’s history and its significance.

For more information about Glendale Parks and Recreation, visit www.glendaleaz.com/parksandrecreation.

###